

A1  
sequence queries (BLASTP and TBLASTN) (Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

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Please delete the paragraph at page 28, lines 1 to 8, and replace it with the following paragraph:

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A2  
A PCR probe is a nucleic acid molecule capable of initiating a polymerase activity while in a double-stranded structure with another nucleic acid. Various methods for determining the structure of PCR probes and PCR techniques exist in the art. Computer generated searches using programs such as Primer3 ([www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer/primer3.cgi](http://www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer/primer3.cgi)), STSPipeline ([www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/www-STSPipeline](http://www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/www-STSPipeline)), or GeneUp (Pesole *et al.*, *BioTechniques* 25:112-123 (1998) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), for example, can be used to identify potential PCR primers.

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#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel non-elected claims 2-7, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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A3  
1. (Once amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule that encodes a maize protein or fragment thereof comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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Please add the following new claim:

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A4  
8. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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